

### Scenes of Goddess Iunit in the Temple of Edfu

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#### Abstract:

Goddess Iunit had a localized importance in The Theban region. Iunit was incorporated into the local ennead of Karnak in the New Kingdom. Along with the goddess Teieneyet, she was venerated as the consort of the ancient falcon war god Montu of Armant (Hermonthis). She was mentioned in the Pyramid texts. The female deity Raet also Known from the Theban region, related to Iunit.

#### The research aims at:

- 1- Studying the representations and scenes of goddess Iunit in the temple of Edfu.
- 2- Studying her important Roles in the temple.
- 3- Illuminating her relation with other gods and goddesses in the temple.

**Key Words:** Iunit \_ Edfu \_ Middle Kingdom \_ New Kingdom\_ Tienenyet \_Greco- Roman Period.

#### Introduction:

Iunit "Iwny.t" was a solar goddess and a member of the great and small ennead of karnak.<sup>(1)</sup> Her name means " she – of- Armant' ". Although the goddess first appears in reliefs dated to the reign of Mentuhotep II and Mentuhotep III of the 11<sup>th</sup> dynasty,<sup>(2)</sup> it is thought that she may have been worshipped there from very early time.<sup>(3)</sup> The fourth upper Egyptian nome was her cult center specially at the temples of Armant, Tod, Deir - el madienh, khonso, Opet, Dendara, Philae and Edfu,<sup>(4)</sup> where it appeared in many places with different forms for writing her name .<sup>(5)</sup>

#### Doc.no. 1:

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu.

#### Description:

This scene shows goddess Iunit standing behind god Horus of Edfu (Hr-BHdty).

Iunit is wearing a long fitting dress and above her head is the sun disk between two horns. She is holding in her right hand the wAD scepter, while in the left hand she is holding the anX sign of life.(Fig.1)<sup>6</sup>



Iwni.t xnt wTst-Hr

Goddess Iunit, who is in front of Edfu.

#### Doc.no. 2:

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, first hypostyle Hall.

#### Description:

In This scene, goddess Iunit is shown between goddess Hathor and the King Ptolemy VIII. She is standing, wearing the solar disk between the two horns above her head, and holding in her right hand the wAD scepter, while in her left hand the anX sign of life.(Fig.2)<sup>7</sup>



Iwn.t m Iwnt

Goddess Iunit in Dendara.

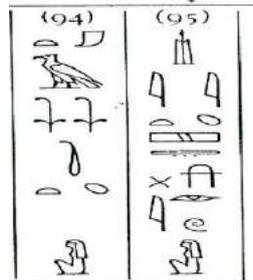
#### Doc.no. 3:

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, 2<sup>nd</sup> hypostyle Hall, the south side of the inner door way(Fig.3)<sup>8</sup>

#### Description:

From the texts at the left of entrance the texts of goddess Iunit in Line (no.95) and Tienenyet in line (no. 94) read:



Tnn.t Iwni.t StAt irw

Tienenyet and Iunit the secret forms.

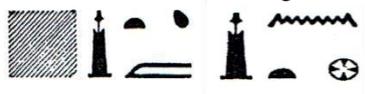
#### Doc.no. 4:

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, the first hypostyle hall, in the western side.

**Description:**

In this scene, the king is offering the **wDA**t-eye to goddess Iunit. She is wearing the solar disk between two horns above her head, and holding in her right hand the **wAD** scepter and in her left hand the **anX** sign of life. (Fig.4)<sup>9</sup>



**Iwni.t m Iwnt**  
**Goddess Iunit in Dendara.**

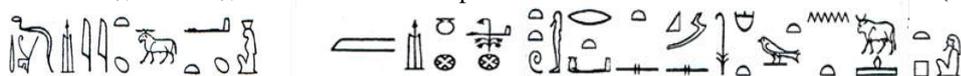
**Doc.no. 5:**

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, from the offering hall.

**Description:**

In this scene, goddess Iunit is standing between the god Horus of Edfu (**Hr-BHDty**) and the god **Montu**. Goddess Iunit appears here as the wife of god Montu. She is wearing the solar disk between the two horns above her head, and holding in her right hand the **wAD** scepter and in her left hand the **anX** sign of life. (Fig.5)<sup>10</sup>



**Dd mdw in iwnt bA-aAt m iwn Sma twt ra.t iry.s QmA.s Hmt wrt nt kA-Htp**

**Recitation by the great Iunit in Armant (the southern Iunit), the giver, the creator and the great wife of the kA-Htp.**

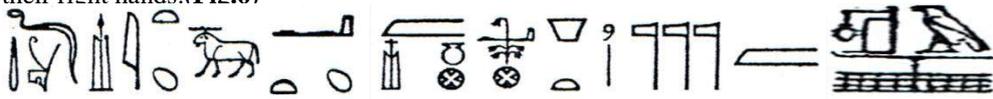
**Doc.no. 6:**

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, the southern store chamber.

**Description:**

In this scene, the king appears offering the menate collar to the goddesses Iunit and Tienenyet. The two goddesses are sitting in front of the king, above their heads a symbol having two loops at the top of a vertical stroke which represents the uterus of the cow. They are holding the **wAD** scepters in their left hands and the **anX** sign of life in their right hands. (Fig.6)<sup>11</sup>



**Dd mdw in iwn.t bA aAt m iwn Sma.t Hnwt ntrw m wTst-Hr**

**Recitation by Iunit the great soul in Armant, and the mistress of gods in Edfu.**

**Doc.no. 7:**

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, exterior of the naos, the south side.

**Description:**

This scene shows the goddess Tienenyet and the goddess Iunit sitting in front of the king. The king is standing and is wearing the Atef crown above his head. In the upper and lower registers the king offers the sign of victory to goddesses Tienenyet and Iunit. The two goddesses "**tnny.t**" and "**Iwny.t**" are wearing the solar disk between the two horns above their heads. They are holding the **wAD** scepters in their left hands and the **anX** sign of life in their right hands. (Fig.7)<sup>12</sup>



**Dd mdw in tnny.t Iwny.t StA.(t) xnt bHd.t**

**Recitation by Tienenyet and Iunit the secret forms in Edfu.**

**Doc.no. 8:**

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, the sanctuary, in the north side.

**Description:**

In this scene, the king offers the menat collar to goddess Iunit. The king is standing in front of the goddess and wearing the double crown.

The goddess "**Iwny.t**" is sitting and she is wearing the solar disk between the two horns above her head, and holding in her right hand the **wAD** scepter and in her left hand the **anX** sign of life. (Fig.8)<sup>13</sup>



**Iwn.t wrt m wtst-Hr**  
**The great "Iunit" in the temple of Edfu.**

**Doc.no. 9:**

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, the south sanctuary, west half, Frieze.

**Description:**

Goddess "**Iwny.t**" is shown with goddess "**tnny.t**" in the frieze.

In this scene, the two goddesses are squatting, above their heads a symbol having two loops at the top of a vertical stroke which represents the uterus of the cow, and holding in their right hands the wAD scepters and in their left hands the anX sign of life. (Fig.9)<sup>14</sup>



**Tnn.t Iwny.t**

**Doc.no. 10:**

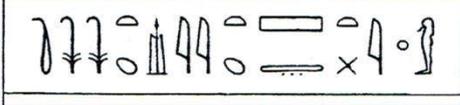
**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu, the sanctuary of the god sokar , in the north side

**Description:**

This scene is in the north of the entrance that leads to a corridor.

Text of goddess "Iwnv.t" is in the eastern north side of the portal in register no.35. (Fig.10)<sup>15</sup>



**Tnn.t Iwny.t StAt irw**

**Tienenyet and Iunit the secret forms.**

**Doc.no. 11:**

**Date:** In the Ptolemaic Period.

**Provenance:** The Temple of Edfu,

**Description:**

This scene shows a row of gods sitting in front of a table of offerings, one of these gods is goddess Iunit who is sitting between the god Horus of Edfu and god Hr-Ihy. Iunit is wearing the solar disk between the two horns above her head, and holding the wAD scepter in her right hand and the anX sign of life in her left hand. (Fig.11)<sup>16</sup>



**Dd mdw in tnnny.t Iwnt**

**Recitation by Tienenyet and Iunit.**

**Conclusion:**

- Goddess Iunit is shown in a human form in all scenes.
  - Goddess "Iwny.t" is shown with goddess "tnny.t", they are wearing the uterus sign above their heads. (Doc.6) & (Doc.9).
  - The goddess "Iwny.t" is showing with the god Horus of Edfu (Hr-BHdty) in (Doc.5).
  - The goddess is shown in a human form, wearing the solar disk between the two horns above her head, and holding the wAD scepter in her right hand and the anX sign of life in her left hand. ( Doc.1), ( Doc.2), ( Doc.4), ( Doc.5), ( Doc.7), ( Doc.8), ( Doc.11).
  - Iunit appears as the wife of Montu in (Doc.5).
  - Iunit is associated with goddess Tienenyet in (Doc.nos.3, 7, 10, 11)
- Based on the above documents, many elements could be realized from the texts and scenes concerning goddess Iunit in the temple of Edfu:

**Table No.1: the relation of Iunit with the other gods:**

The accompanied scenes of goddess Iunit reflect her relation with other deities:

Deities	Document No.
Iunit with Horus of Edfu (Hr-BHdty)	Doc.nos.1,5,11
Iunit with <b>tienenyet</b>	Doc.nos.3,6,7,9,10, 11
Iunit with (kA-Htp)	Doc.2
Iunit with Montu	Doc.5

**مناظر الإلهة إيونيت علي جدران معبد إدفو**

شيماء عيد علي محمد موسي - رضوي شليح - مفيدة الوشاحي

تعتبر الإلهة إيونيت المنتمية إلي أرمنت إحدى الآلهة المحلية للإقليم الرابع، عضو رئيسي في تاسوع معبد الكرنك. كما أنها تظهر جنباً إلي جنب مع الإلهة تاننيت، وهي تعتبر كزوجة لإله الحرب الإله موننو داخل معبده في منطقة أرمنت، وعلي الرغم من ذلك فإن هذه الإلهة قد ظهرت في منطقة منتوحنتب الثاني ومنتوحنتب الثالث في القرن الحادي عشر ويعتقد أنها قد ظهرت لأول مرة في نصوص الأهرام منذ عصر الدولة القديمة.

**أهداف البحث:**

- دراسة مناظر الإلهة إيونيت علي جدران معبد إدفو.
- دراسة الدور الفعال للإلهة إيونيت داخل المعبد.
- توضيح علاقة الإلهة إيونيت بالآلهة والآلهات الأخرى داخل المعبد.

**الكلمات الدالة:**

إيونيت \_ عصر الدولة القديمة \_ تاننيت \_ العصر اليوناني الروماني.

Figures:

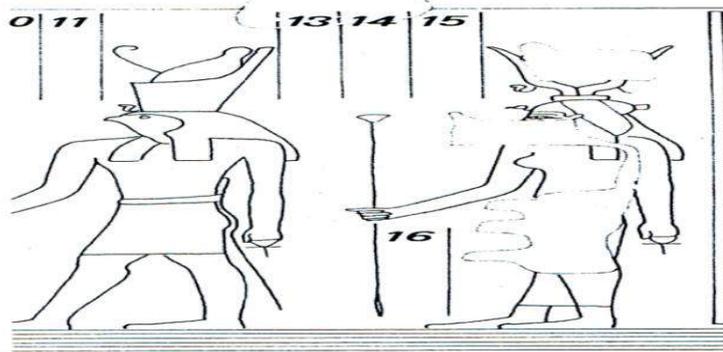


Fig.1  
 Edfu VII, PL. CIXXII

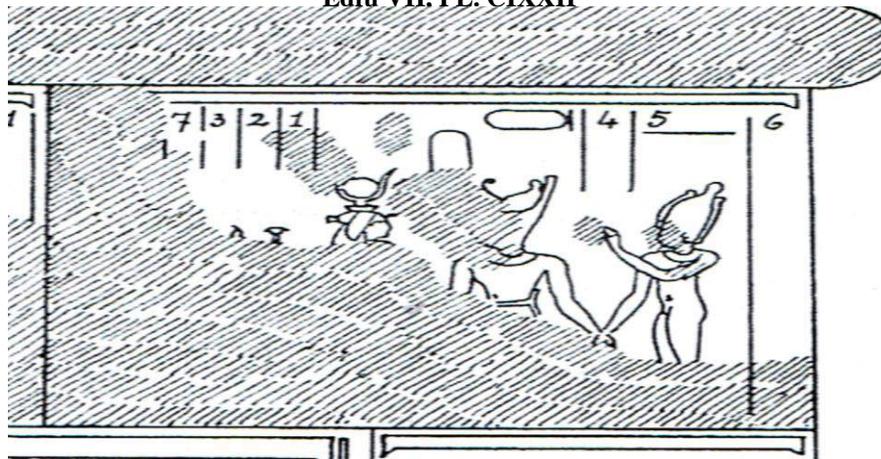


Fig.2  
 Edfu III, PL. LVI

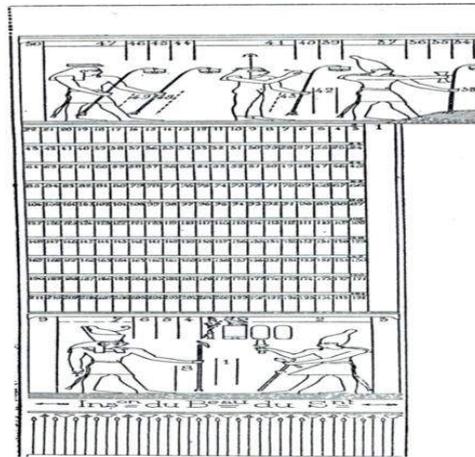


Fig.3  
 Edfu II, Pl. XLh



Fig.4  
 Edfu V, PL. CXXI

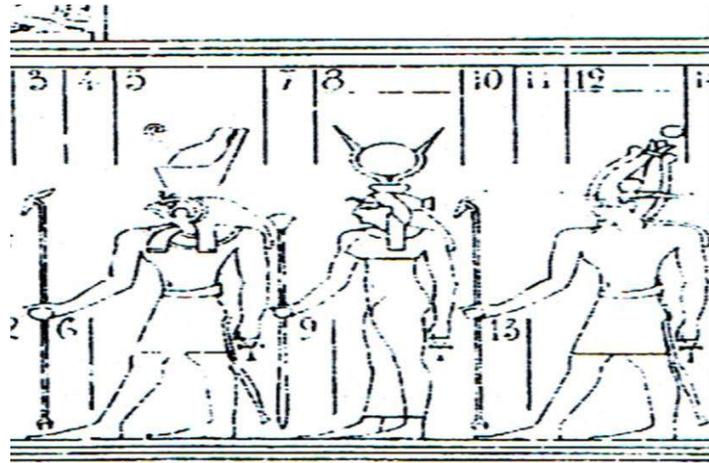


Fig.5  
Edfu I. PL. XXXb

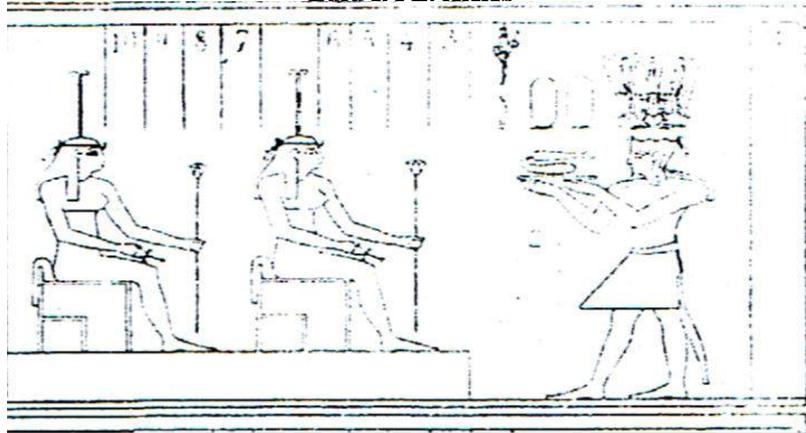


Fig.6  
Edfu I, PL. XXIIIa

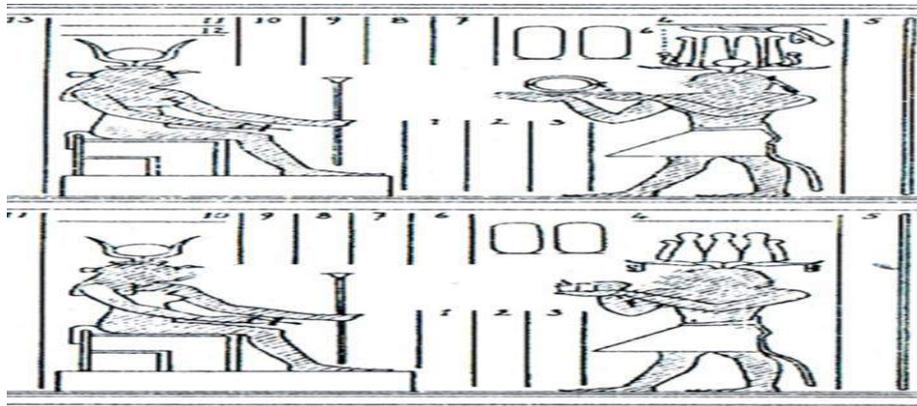


Fig.7  
Edfu IV.PL.IXXXVII

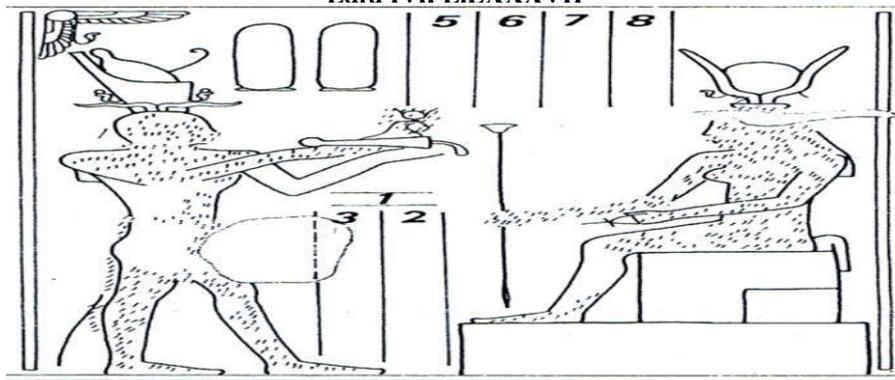
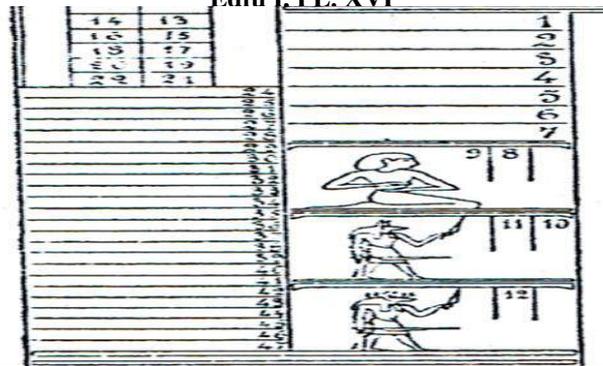


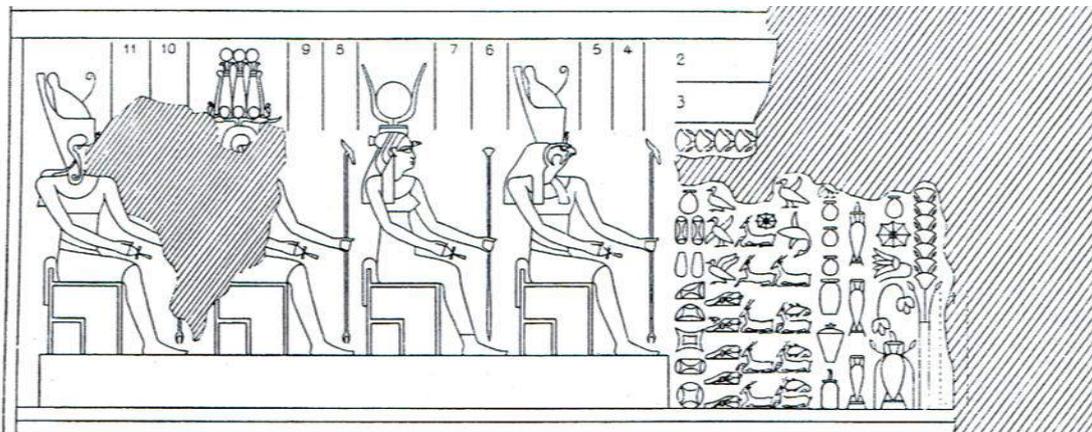
Fig.8  
Edfu VII,PL. CLXXIII



**Fig.9**  
**Edfu I, PL. XVI**



**Fig.10**  
**Edfu I, PL. XXIVa**



**Fig.11**  
**Edfu V, PL. CXXXVI**

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